

NEW YORK'S INDIANS.

EMPIRE STATE RESERVATIONS.

—A Tour Through the Land of the Six Nations—Seneca, Onondagas, Oneidas, Cayugas, and Tuscaroras—A Talk With Colonel Sim Logan.

Special Correspondence of THE REPUBLICAN.
CATARAUGUS INDIAN RESERVE, N. Y.,
Sept. 10.—Riding through the rich agricultural district on the western borders of the Holland Purchase, thirty-and-odd miles due south of Buffalo, we suddenly came upon the northern arc of the amphitheatre of high hills encircling the enterprising and
PRETTY VILLAGE OF GOWANDA,
which is halved by the counties of Erie and Cattaraugus, and they are divided by the Dutchman

precipitous waters of the creek, above and within the village, supply a continuously repeating motive-power that is profitably utilized for saw-mills, custom and merchant flouring mills, agricultural and edge-tool works, tanneries, and other manufacturing industries. Central in the village, on the left bank of the turbulent creek, stands the

MODEL FREE SCHOOL-HOUSE,

a stately structure of brick, displaying architectural taste which is a credit to the foresight of the

may long be an honor to their liberality. White, roomy churches; but whose spires do not reach the altitude of the surrounding hills; dignified mansions, some modern and elegant, and the many tidy cottages suggest opulence and taste: the numerous shops and stores, some of them stylish and commodious, attest the industry and wealth; but the grand old sugar-maple trees that border and shade the streets are the sentinels that guard and perpetuate in remembrance the wise generation who planted them. The *Estimote*, the village

with pleasing humor, and emits gems of wit. Driving down the right bank of the creek and up a steep hill, we come upon an upland plain, generally covered with scrub-oak, some standing pines, and much fallen and decaying timber, and passing down the highway we saw occasional clearings, poorly fenced. In these clearings and near the roadside were small frame or log houses and barns. Outside, women and children were to be seen making baskets or braiding long strings of corn. Men were in the clearing, gathering the harvest or tending the stock.

"Is this an average of the land comprising this reserve, Mr. Stewart," we asked of our friend as we were upon the upland plain.

"No, sir, it is not. This plain-land has what the Indians call an early, warm, quick soil, being of gravel and loam, but is not equal to the valley

"Yes, sir; that village is the capital of the Seneca Nation—Cattaraugus. The meeting-houses

the two-story white building near the first entrance is the national court-house; the large dwelling house beyond that is the mission house, where the sainted Rev. Ashur Wright and wife lived forty years. Farther down the main street you can see the still larger edifice, the Thomas Orphan Asylum, named in acknowledgment of the constant friendship toward the New York Indians by the Quaker philanthropist, the late Philip E. Thomas, of Baltimore.

"But here we are at the handsome cottage of our

Colonel Logan greeted us cordially, and from him we gained many facts embraced in this letter. "May I ask you, Colonel Logan, the use your people make of the

SENeca NATIONAL COURT-HOUSE?"

"I will with pleasure relate to you, sir, its uses. The Seneca nation of New York Indians residing on the Cattaraugus and Allegheny

"But what became of your hereditary government of chiefs?"

"In theory and honorably only have we chiefs; we reverence the old wise men of the Nation; but our republican government superseded the chiefs."

"Do you have elections by the people, and what officers do you have, then?"

"Certainly; we have elections annually on the first Tuesday in May, at one polling-place upon each reserve. A president, treasurer, and elected officers are chosen by ballot for each reserve, who

THE COUNCIL OF THE SENECA NATION,
or legislature, whose annual meeting is at the
court-house at Cattaraugus the first Tuesday in
June, and the president of the Nation presides at
the councils.

"Do you have judicial and other officers, Col-
onel?"

"Yes, sir: at the same elections we elect for each
reserve a marshal to attend upon the council and ex-
ecute its mandates and serve all processes from our
courts; commissioners of highways to take charge
of the roads and bridges, and three peace-makers."

"You mentioned courts, Colonel?"

"Only as to the ordinary transactions among Indians upon their respective reserves, and are the surrogates in relation to estates of the deceased in the same territory."

"Does the jurisdiction of the peace-makers extend to criminal offenses?"

"Only as to petty offenses between Indians. In graver crimes against property or persons our Indians are amenable to the laws of the State."

"Do you select your public officers, Colonel; do you have caucuses for the purpose of making nominations, and do you have parties and party contests?"

"Are the Senecas wholly confined to the Allegany and Cattaraugus Reserves?"

"No, sir; besides those upon these two reserves there is the Tonawanda band of Senecas, on the Tonawanda reserve; and this band retains its government by chiefs."

"May I be allowed the number and location of the Indian reserves in New York; the number of land comprised therein; the names of

As well as I can, sir. Our tradition is that, prior to 1712, the

IROQUOIS CONFEDERATION OF FIVE NATIONS, residing mainly within territory that now constitutes the State of New York, were comprised of the Mohawks, Oneidas, Onondagas, Cayugas, and Senecas. In 1712 the Tuscaroras came from North Carolina to New York, and were adopted by the Iroquois as the sixth Nation of the confederacy."

"But the Mohawks do not reside in New York; what became of them?"

Johnston's household, continued loyal to the Crown and fought in the ranks with the British army, under the leadership of the great Mohawk chief, Thay-en-dee-ge-ga, or Joseph Brant. At the close of the war the English gave that nation a large tract of land in Upper Canada, near Niagara, and fully recognized Brant's abilities and loyalty; thus they removed to Canada, leaving us again the Flat Lands. It was then that we began their removal to Canada what became of that Nation's interest in

"Gentlemen, dinner is waiting us, so we will defer our talk to a later hour," said Colonel Logan.

Killed by the Indians.
The following dispatch from Colonel Carr, dated Fort Apache, September 13, has been forwarded to the Adjutant-General by General McDowell: "Killed at Cibien—Captain E. C. Hentig, Privates Henry C. Bird, Edward D. Livingston, John Sullivan, John Sandegger, and William Miller, Troop D, Sixth Cavalry. Died of wounds received on Cibien—Private John McDonald, Troop E, and Private Ludwig Blazo, Troop D. Killed on Seven Mile Hill, on the road

ual Peter J. Bladt and Edward Whittier, Company D,
Twelfth Infantry. Wounded at Apache—First
Lieutenant C. G. Gooden, Sixth Cavalry.